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where said amount is less than an amount which induces a pathological response in the mammal when administered parenterally, said oromucosal administration being in a manner which does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected cells, and provided that when the condition is rhinovirus, the interferon is not administered through the mouth by multiple or continuous doses.

Delete claims 15-18 and 24 without prejudice.

Insert new claim 25 as follows:

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--25. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said pathogenic condition is other than a rhinovirus.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 19-23 and 25 presently appear in this case. No claims have been allowed. The official action of July 18, 2000, has now been carefully studied.

Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully urged.

Briefly, the present invention relates to a method for stimulating systemic host defense mechanisms by administering a therapeutically effective amount of an interferon via oromucosal contact. The amount is from 21.4 IU/kg/day to about  $2.9 \times 10^4$  IU/kg/day. The oromucosal administration is in a manner which does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected cells. Preferably, the condition is other than a rhinovirus.